

Westfield Town Council Meeting/June 11, 2007

From: Mollianne and Russell Cameron of Stitches & Scones Inc.

- ❖ Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. We would like our comments submitted into the record.
- ❖ I would like to thank Mr. Dippel, Mr. Plankis and Mr. Anderson for taking time to discuss the parking issue with us.
- ❖ We realize that the downtown parking situation is one of many issues you are currently facing.
- ❖ We would like to go on record that we oppose any parking restrictions in the downtown Westfield area for the following reasons:
 1. Ticketing customers and clients creates bad will.
 2. Parking restrictions limit the intermingling of businesses and discourage customers from visiting multiple businesses.
 3. Zionsville repealed parking restrictions in 2004 for the main business area.
 4. The town has not done due diligence such as an impact study on the effect of parking restrictions for this area.
 5. The cost of enforcement will probably be a diminishing return with the few number of spaces patrolled.
 6. There is misinformation about who is parking on Union Street.
 7. If business owners and employees parked in secondary parking, there would be no shortage of parking.
 8. A solution for South Union may not work for North Union Street.
 9. A clearly identified, safe customer parking lot does not exist yet.
 10. With properties for sale, businesses moving, and the new revitalization plan, we are currently in a very unstable business environment. This is not a good time to create another deterrent to coming to downtown Westfield.
- ❖ The parking restriction does not solve the real parking problem. Owners and staff park on Union Street for long periods of time. With longer parking in one section and shorter parking in the other, more employees will park in the four hour parking zone.
- ❖ I need to ask for parking longer than two hours because my business is based upon two to four hour classes and the expectation that the customers have to shop for yarn for the classes.
- ❖ For this reason, I am asking for your support of the "Customers First" program to keep parking open for everyone's customers. Jim Anderson has agreed to support the program and we need your backing. Please add this plan to your parking proposal.
- ❖ After almost five years as retail store owner and property owner in Westfield, I understand the requirements of creating a successful business in the area. The road and building improvements will be a challenge, but in the end the potential for downtown Westfield is exciting. Let's be patient, look at the big picture and do what is clearly best for the success of Westfield as a destination place.

Thank you for your time.